



St Mary Redcliffe

William Saunders

Thursday 10 March 2022

1.00-1.50 pm

William Saunders is one of Britain's leading young concert organists whose imaginative programming, recordings of accessible modern English repertoire and passion for music education is ensuring that this instrument is conserved for the next generation. He regularly performs recitals at distinguished venues across the UK, Europe and North America, and leading festivals including Oundle International Festival, Cambridge Summer Music Festival, Three Choirs Festival, Kings Lynn Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and Lübecker Orgelsommer. He's also premiered numerous works including *Animal Parade* by Iain Farrington, and *Diptych* by Dobrinka Tabakova.

William has released several critically acclaimed CDs on Regent Records, including works he's commissioned and world premiere recordings. Gramophone Magazine has praised his "rhythmic vitality" while Organists' Review declared his playing as "flawless and so assured that one can listen in the knowledge that nothing will faze him."

William is in demand as an accompanist and has worked with the Kings Voices, London Voices and Aldeburgh Voices (the latter established by Benjamin Britten). In addition, he directs a number of vocal ensembles including the Buriensi Consort and Prometheus Consort.

Alongside his performance career, William is passionate about music education. He's a consultant for the Royal College of Organists and is currently working with them to create a one-stop shop for reinfusing organs into our music culture.

William has worked at several esteemed institutions, including The Royal Hospital School in Suffolk where he was Director of Music for nearly a decade. Throughout his tenure he was responsible for a dynamic music department that created inspiring opportunities for its students; highlights included collaborations with the BBC Big Band, Swingle Singers, National Youth Choir of Great Britain and forming partnerships with HM Royal Marines Training Band and the Royal College of Organists. In addition, he directed the Chapel Choir at The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the presence of the royal family, which was broadcast live on BBC radio and television. He also established the Sing Up Suffolk annual event which involves 800 primary school children coming to the school with the primary aim of making singing fun and accessible.

Other roles William has previously held include Acting Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Organist at St Mary-le-Tower Civic Church (Ipswich), plus he is founder of the Ipswich School Festival of Music.

William enjoys being kept busy, and in addition to his performance career he has recently become Director of MediaTracks Music Ltd, a British independent music company which provides a wide range of production music for the worldwide broadcast industry. Outside of his musical life, he likes to enjoy good food with his young family, fast cars and keeping fit.

William Saunders (Suffolk)

Thursday 10 March at 1pm

Sonata no 5 – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Andante – Andante con moto – Allegro Maestoso

Adagio – Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

Organ Sonata in G – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Allegro Maestoso – Allegretto – Andante espressivo – Presto (comodo)

*Applause is encouraged at the end of the concert please,
rather than between each item.*

*We ask that no recordings are made of the concert,
unless authorised by the performer and church authorities. Thank you.*

*The church undercroft café is closed until further notice.
Toilet facilities are still available there, as before.*

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- ❖ Press the 'Organ Concerts' tab on the screen*
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*In order to meet the rising costs of putting on these concerts,
we ask for a minimum donation of £4 where possible.*

Next week: **Thursday 17 March**
Alison Howell & Andrew Kirk (Organ Duets)

Excerpts from Night on a Bald Mountain – Mussorgsky

Suite for Organ & Piano – Denis Bedard

Introduction – Fughetta – Final

Organ Solo – Toccata Gaelica – Hans-André Stamm (AH)

Be thou my vision – traditional Irish arranged by Gardonyi

Duet on *St Patrick Breastplate* (first performance) arr Andrew Kirk

Organ Solo – *Bearing the Cross; Simon of Cyrene* – Philip Moore

Variations on an Easter Theme – John Rutter

Spring Series 2022 – Lunchtime at Redcliffe
Organ Concerts 1-1.50pm

Mar 10 – William Saunders

Mar 17 – Alison Howell & Andrew Kirk (Duets)

Mar 24 – Paul Carr

For further information about organ recitals in the UK, please visit

Organrecitals.com

www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk